WRITING A COMPARATIVE THESIS

Start your thesis by pointing out the (perhaps obvious) way in which your two texts/themes/subjects are the same

1) Next suggest that although there is a clear similarity, you plan to argue that there is a less obvious way in which these two texts/themes/subjects are different
2) Explain why this less obvious difference is important. Why should we care about it?

OR

Start your thesis by pointing out the (perhaps obvious) way in which your two texts/themes/subjects are different

3) Next suggest that although there is a clear difference, you plan to argue that there is a less obvious way in which these two texts/themes/subjects are the same
4) Explain why this less obvious similarity is important. Why should we care about it?

When the slave Margaret Garner killed her daughter, both abolitionists and defenders of slavery agreed that she was guilty of a crime and should be punished, however close analysis shows that abolitionists thought she should be punished for murder and those who defended slavery thought she should be punished for theft. This difference in describing the crime was important in the fight to view the enslaved as fully human, because if abolitionists were right, it meant that enslaved people had rights and responsibilities with respect to their own children, whereas if slavery defenders were correct, enslaved children were merely property of their owners, who could do what they wished to their property without regard to the parents.

SIMILARITY: When the slave Margaret Garner killed her daughter**, both abolitionists and defenders of slavery agreed that she was guilty of a crime and should be punished**,

DIFFERENCE: **however** close analysis shows that **abolitionists thought she should be punished for murder and those who**

defended slavery thought she should be punished for theft.

SIGNIFICANCE: This difference in describing the crime was important in the fight to view the enslaved as fully human, **because if abolitionists were right, it meant that enslaved people had rights and responsibilities with respect to their own children**, whereas **if slavery defenders were correct, enslaved children were merely property of their owners, who could do what they wished to their property without regard to the parents.**